

Hansen's Disease / Leprosy (*Mycobacterium leprae*)

2013 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement(s)

12-ID-01

Clinical Criteria

A chronic bacterial disease characterized by the involvement primarily of skin as well as peripheral nerves and the mucosa of the upper airway. Clinical forms of Hansen's disease represent a spectrum reflecting the cellular immune response to *Mycobacterium leprae*. The following characteristics are typical of the major forms of the disease, *though these classifications are assigned after a case has been laboratory confirmed*.

- *Tuberculoid*: one or a few well-demarcated, hypopigmented, and hypoesthetic or anesthetic skin lesions, frequently with active, spreading edges and a clearing center; peripheral nerve swelling or thickening also may occur.
- *Lepromatous*: a number of erythematous papules and nodules or an infiltration of the face, hands, and feet with lesions in a bilateral and symmetrical distribution that progress to thickening of the skin, possibly with reduced sensation.
- *Borderline (dimorphous)*: skin lesions characteristic of both the tuberculoid and lepromatous forms
- *Indeterminate*: early lesions, usually hypopigmented macules, without developed tuberculoid or lepromatous features but with definite identification of acid-fast bacilli in Fite stained sections

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Confirmed:

- Demonstration of acid fast bacilli in skin or dermal nerve from a biopsy of a skin lesion using Fite stain, without growth of mycobacteria on conventional media (if done), **OR**
- Identification of noncaseating granulomas with peripheral nerve involvement, without growth of mycobacteria on conventional media (if done)

Case Classification

Confirmed

- A clinically compatible illness with confirmatory laboratory results.